

Message Text

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POUCHED: BORDEAUX, LYON, MARSEILLE, NICE, STRASBOURG, MARTIN-
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E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, FR

SUBJ: JEAN-JACQUES SERVAN-SCHREIBER BOWS OUT

1. JEAN-JACQUES SERVAN-SCHREIBER (JJSS), PRESIDENT OF THE RADICAL PARTY, EDITOR OF L'EXPRESS MAGAZINE AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY FROM NANCY, ANNOUNCED ON NOVEMBER 10 THAT HE WOULD NOT SEEK REELECTION AS PARTY PRESIDENT OF THE RADICAL PARTY CONGRESS NOVEMBER 24-25. IN A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE RADICAL PARTY FEDERATION OF THE NORG, JJSS SAID HE DID NOT FEEL ABLE TO HEAL THE SPLIT IN THE PARTY WHICH OCCURRED AT THE TIME OF THE MARCH 1973 LEGISLATIVE ELECTION CAMPAIGN WHEN A NUMBER OF RADICAL DEPUTIES BOLTED THE PARTY AND JOINED THE SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST PARTIES IN THE UNION OF THE LEFT. HE ADDED THAT WHAT REMAINS OF THE PARTY IS NOW DIVIDED BETWEEN THOSE WHO WANT TO JOIN THEIR FORMER COLLEAGUES IN ALLIANCE WITH THE LEFT AND THOSE WHO WANT TO RALLY TO THE GOVERNMENT MAJORITY. SINCE HE CAN JOIN NEITHER THE COMMUNISTS NOR THE GOVERNMENT, JJSS CONCLUDED, HE RECOGNIZES THAT HE IS UNABLE TO HEAL AND UNITE THE PARTY AND THEREFORE WILL NOT CAMPAIGN FOR THE PARTY PRESIDENCY.

2. COMMENT: RADICAL PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL NICK MALOUMIAN TOLD
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US THAT JJSS' DECISION COMES AS A RESULT OF A SERIES OF PERSONAL

AND POLITICAL DISAPPOINTMENTS SINCE TSHE MARCH LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS. THE FINAL BLOW, ACCORDING TO MALOUMIAN, WAS THE TOTAL LACK OF PUBLIC INTEREST GENERATED BY JJSS' PROTEST AGAINST FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING IN THE PACIFIC. HE FEELS HE IS AHEAD OF HIS TIME IN OPPOSING THE "FORCE DE FRAPPE" AND CONCORDE AND IN ESPOUSING REGIONALIZATION. HINTING THAT JJSS' DECISION MIGHT NOT BE FINAL, HOWEVER, MALOUMIAN CALLED ATTENTION TO THE AMBIGUITY OF JJSS' STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD NOT "CAMPAIGN FOR THE PARTY PRESIDENCY." MALOUMIAN IMPLIED THAT HE MIGHT STILL ACCEPT A PARTY DRAFT IF SUCH WAS THE OVERWHELMING SENTIMENT OF THE NOVEMBER 24-25 CONGRESS. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THE CHANCES WERE AT LEAST 60-40 THAT JJSS WOULD ACTUALLY STEP DOWN. IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO ASSESS THE IMPACT ON FRENCH POLITICS OF JJSS' DEPARTURE, SHOULD HE IN FACT DEPART, UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS ELECTED AND UNTIL THE DIRECTION THE PARTY TAKES UNDER LEADERSHIP IS KNOWN. THE ONLY NAME SO FAR BEING DISCUSSED IN PARIS' POLITICAL CIRCLES AS A REPLACEMENT FOR JJSS IS GABRIEL PERONNET, RADICAL PARTY DEPUTY FROM VICHY, WHO UNTIL NOW HAS BEEN A JJSS LOYALIST.

DECONTROLLED 1/31/75.IRWIN

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